27th February 1928]

The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI :—" Sir, I move that the Bill be passed into law."

Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—" I second the motion."

The motion was put and adopted and the Bill passed into law.

XI

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

PAY AND STATUS OF PANDITS AND MUNSHIS

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I wish to know whether any hon. Member proposes to move the resolution.[1] (After a pause.) As no hon. Member proposes to move the resolution it will be deemed to have been withdrawn."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I beg to move the resolution."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member should be alert; he can give notice of the resolution for the next meeting."

RECONSTITUTION OF THE SIRUGUPPA TALUK

*Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the resolution that stands in my name, viz.,—

' *That this Council recommends to the Government that the old Siruguppa taluk of Bellary district which was abolished in* 1923 *be re-established.*'

" In moving this resolution I would like to say a few words and commend it to the consideration of the House. Prior to 1910, the Bellary district had eight taluks. In 1910, on the recommendation of Sir William Meyer, Siruguppa taluk was constituted into a separate taluk with some of the villages of

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Pay and status of Pandits and Munshis.

[1] [1281] Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO,—
[1298] Mr. B. VENKATARATNAM,—
[1306] Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR,—
[1284] Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO,—
[1276] Mr. H. B. ARI GOWDER,—
[1307] BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED SAHIB Bahadur,—
[1305] Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR,—
[1299] Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR,—
[1290] Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU,—
[1313] Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI,—
[1286] Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo,—
[1274] Rao Sahib L. C. GURUSWAMI,—
[1283] Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR,—
[1270] Mr. C. D. APPAVU CHETTIYAR,—
[1273] Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR,—
[1300] Mr. J. BHIMAYYA,—
[1301] Mr. W. P. A. SOUNDARAPANDIYA NADAR,—
[1282] Mr. A. B. SHETTY,—
[1272] Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN,—
[1277] Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR,—
[1303] Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDI :—

This Council recommends to the Government that Pandits and Munshis employed in Government Colleges, High Schools and Middle Schools be given the same pay and status as college assistants, school assistants and secondary grade teachers respectively.

[Mr. R. Nagan Gowda] [27th February 1928

Bellary, Adoni and Alur. The taluk continued to be a unit with a tahsildar and other officers till the year 1923 when, on account of the retrenchment policy of the Government, the taluk was abolished and the villages that constituted Siruguppa taluk were distributed among the taluks of Alur, Adoni and Bellary. I might also say that from the year 1917 up to the year 1920 the Government had been spending large sums of money to build the taluk office and quarters for the officials. The action taken by the Government in 1923 in abolishing the Siruguppa taluk has caused considerable inconvenience and disadvantage.

" Before the abolition of this taluk, the Bellary taluk, which is its neighbour, had 114 villages. After the abolition of Siruguppa taluk, the Bellary taluk has 150 villages. This has increased the number of villages in the taluk of Bellary by about 32 per cent. The neighbouring taluk of Adoni, which had already got enormous number of villages, viz., 175, was increased to 210.

" To the taluk of Alur which also had a large number of villages was added 20 per cent more villages. The beriz of the taluk of Siruguppa was Rs. 2,52,000. When this taluk was amalgamated with the taluks of Bellary, Adoni and Alur, it has increased the beriz of the taluk of Bellary by about 50 per cent, of Adoni by 33 per cent and of Alur by 10 per cent.

" In this connexion, Sir, I would like to compare the number of villages in the taluks of the Bellary district with the number of villages in the taluks of Anantapur and Cuddapah. For instance, Sir, in Kamalapuram taluk of the Cuddapah district there are only about 63 villages much less than in any of the taluks in Bellary. In the Madakasira taluk in Anantapur district there are only 61 villages. In the Kalyandrug taluk there are only 75 villages. 11-30 a.m. On the other hand, in none of the taluks of the Bellary district there is such a small number of villages as 75. The disadvantages of having a large number of villages in a taluk are great many. But one of the most important is the difficulty of the villagers to go and reach the taluk officials. There are some villages in the taluk of Siruguppa which are as far away as 40 or 50 miles from the taluk headquarters and one of the great difficulties that the villagers will have to undergo would be to go to see a taluk official. The same difficulty would present itself to the taluk officials who have to go to see these villages. One of the disadvantages that have accrued on account of the abolition of the taluk is the long distances that have to be travelled and the consequent difficulty that was experienced last year in the distribution of Takkavi loans to the villages.

" Again, Sir, the Government revenue collection suffers badly. Government cannot collect the revenue within the three months allotted for the collection. Sir, some time ago, the Revenue Board Member who visited Bellary reported that the difficulties complained of by the ryots were more imaginary than real. As a matter of fact, Sir, he did not go round the villages and see the ryots and ask them about the difficulties. Then he would have found the difficulties of the long distance of the headquarters from the villages. Then, Sir, a year and three months ago, when the matter was referred to the Bellary Collector, it seems he said that there was no need for the establishment of a taluk. But, Sir, the Collector had been in the district only a few weeks. Sir, a few months ago, a representation was received from people that the Siruguppa taluk may be reconstituted. They said that it was all the more necessary as the taluk was on the borders of the Nizam's Dominions.

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" Sir, the Siruguppa taluk has a big wet land cultivation. It has larger *beriz* than some of the other taluks of the district; and this being the case, the removal of the headquarters from the Siruguppa taluk is a great hardship on the people concerned. Sir, it has been objected that the constitution of Siruguppa taluk cost the Government an enormous lot. But, Sir, when the Siruguppa taluk was constituted, along with it they constituted a new separate division in the Bellary district. It was the constitution of a separate division—this extra division—in the district that cost the Government an enormous lot. But now it is only the Siruguppa taluk that is sought to be reconstituted and therefore the Government cannot incur an enormous loss or increase in the expenses by having a separate Siruguppa taluk. Sir, probably it will cost the Government some money at least, but yet I beg the officials concerned to consider the great difficulties that the ryots have to feel to go these enormous distances. So I appeal to the authorities concerned to have this defect rectified so that the villagers may be enabled to see the taluk officials without difficulty. I therefore appeal to the Government to consider this matter very favourably."

Mr. P. Siva Rao :—" Sir, I have very great pleasure in seconding the resolution which has been so ably and eloquently moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Nagan Gowda. Now, Sir, he has made out a strong case for the restoration of the Siruguppa taluk. Sir, it is unfortunate that the pruning knife should have been so vigorously applied in the case of Bellary. I daresay that the present arrangement means a great deal of hardship and inconvenience to the people of this taluk. Some villages of this taluk have been tacked on to the Bellary taluk and some to the Adoni taluk with the result that it works an immense disadvantage and inconvenience to the people concerned. Government spent lavishly when they changed the headquarters and it will be especially waste of money to continue the present administration. Sir, for these reasons, I wholeheartedly endorse the proposal of Mr. Nagan Gowda that the taluk of Siruguppa be restored as early as possible."

* The hon. the President :—" It has been moved and seconded that ' this Council recommends to the Government that the old Siruguppa taluk of Bellary district, which was abolished in 1923, be re-established.'

" The resolution is for the discussion of the House."

* The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Mr. President, Sir, this taluk was abolished in 1922 as a measure of retrenchment. Since then, certain representations have been received by the Government. While the Collector has reported that reconstitution of the taluk is not absolutely necessary from the point of view of district administration, there is reason to suppose that it would be of advantage to the people generally and the matter is under consideration with reference to several petitions that have been received from the inhabitants of that area. It is probable that if it is only a question of restoration of the taluk and not of the reconstitution of the division, there will not be very serious objection to it. The matter is under consideration and I hope the decision will be as the Mover desires."

* Mr. R. Nagan Gowda :—" Mr. President, Sir, after the kind assurance given by the Revenue Member that it will be favourably considered, I propose to withdraw my motion."

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.